

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4325

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5535

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, GE
SUBJECT: LUNCH WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT

REF: (A) BERLIN 5092, (B) BERLIN 5390, (C) STATE 055621

1. I HAVE ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT FOR LUNCH ON MARCH 21. I ASSUME HE HAS NOTHING PARTICULAR ON HIS AGENDA AND MAY WISH MERELY TO GO OVER A NUMBER OF ITEMS IN US/GDR RELATIONS IN RECIPROCATING FOR MY JANUARY LUNCH (REF A). AT SAME TIME IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT STATE SECRETARY BEIL ALSO HAS INDICATED A DESIRE TO GET TOGETHER IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS (SEPTTEL), AND THAT MFA HAS SUGGESTED THAT GEYER RATHER THAN LOWER RANKING USA DIVISION OFFICER WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE DEPT OFFICER CHESTER MARCH 17. THESE OCCASIONS SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, AND IT SEEMS EVIDENT THE GDR WANTS TO TALK, OR AT LEAST GET OUR READING ON CURRENT STATE OF US/GDR RELATIONS.

2. WITH GRUNERT, I INTEND TO RAISE THE MATTER OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, REFERRING TO HIS COMMENTS AT OUR JANUARY 12 LUNCH (REFTEL A), AND ASKING WHEN WE MIGHT EXPECT A COUNTER-DRAFT FROM THE GDR SIDE. I WOULD NOTE WE WOULD LIKE TO MOVE FORWARD ON THIS ITEM OF UNFINISHED
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BUSINESS AND ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY LANGUAGE THEY MIGHT PROPOSE THAT WOULD ACCOMMODATE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES. I THINK IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF CLAIMS SETTLEMENT WITH THE AIM OF FINDING OUT WHAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN BY BOTH SIDES IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO GET THIS MATTER UNDERWAY. I COULD RAISE THE MATTER OF DOCUMENTATION, ASKING GRUNERT HOW

BEST WE COULD PROCEED IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA. IF THE DEPARTMENT THINKS IT WOULD BE USEFUL AND TIMELY, I COULD SUGGEST THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SEND LEGAL EXPERTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS, OR WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE GDR EXPERTS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. SINCE THERE IS NOT AS MUCH MOVEMENT RECENTLY AS WE WOULD LIKE IN OUR HUMANITARIAN CASES (BERLIN 5443) I WOULD PROPOSE RAISING THIS ITEM WITH GRUNERT, EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE PROGRESS OF LAST FALL APPEARS TO HAVE CEASED. WE WOULD HOPE, IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF US/GDR RELATIONS AS WELL AS PREPARATIONS FOR BELGRADE, THAT WE WILL SEE RENEWED PROGRESS IN THIS AREA.

4. ON CSCE I WOULD REMIND GRUNERT THAT WE HAVE NOT YET HEARD FROM THE GDR ON THE APPROACH WE HAD MADE TO THEM THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY. SINCE BELGRADE IS DRAWING CLOSER, AND IN THE SPIRIT OF MAKING THE SESSION AS CONSTRUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE, WE WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE THEIR VIEWS ON OUR PROPOSALS AS WELL AS ANY THEY MIGHT HAVE ON BILATERAL STEPS THAT WE COULD CONSIDER IN FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT. GRUNERT COULD RAISE THE IDEA OF A BOCK OR GRUNERT LEVEL VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN THIS CONTEXT, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON THIS SCORE.

5. IT SEEMS LIKELY -- EITHER IN A CSCE CONTEXT OR
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OTHERWISE -- THAT GRUNERT MAY RAISE IN GENERAL TERMS THE QUESTION OF OUR REFUSAL OF LONG-TERM VISAS FOR GDR TECHNICIANS AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO BETTER RELATIONS. UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT HAS NEW INSTRUCTIONS, I WOULD MERELY REITERATE OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

6. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE GRUNERT MIGHT ASK WHERE WE STAND ON GDR PROPOSALS IN THE CULTURAL/INFORMATION AREA, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE THE DEPARTMENT HAS ON THIS SUBJECT.

7. WE UNDERSTAND FROM DR. LANGE OF THE GDR EMBASSY, WHOM WE SAW AT THE LEOPZIG FAIR, THAT AMBASSADOR SIEBER WILL BE COMING BACK TO EAST BERLIN EITHER THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH OR THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL FOR A WEEK. IF DEPARTMENT PREFERS TO RAISE SOME OF THE FOREGOING ITEMS WITH SIEBER AT THE ANDERSON OR HIGHER LEVEL AND WOULD WANT ME TO RAISE OTHER POINTS WITH GRUNERT, I WOULD APPRECIATE APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE.

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